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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,167	02/14/2005	Rene Govaerts	66722-067-7	5618

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EXAMINER

LU, ZHIYU

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2618

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/520,167	Applicant(s) GOVAERTS, RENE	
	Examiner Zhiyu Lu	Art Unit 2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/22/2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 05/22/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding amended claim 1, Applicant has argued that the cordless unit 6 of Figs. 1 and 4 of Uchiyama only has a power supply line coupled thereto through the base station but no connector for connection of a communication line thereto.

However, Uchiyama does teach the cordless unit 6 of Fig. 4 has connector for connection of a communication line thereto besides power connection (column 8 lines 11-14). Thus, the rejection is proper and maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiyama (US Patent#6766175) in view of Umstetter et al. (US2002/0115455).

Regarding claim 1, Uchiyama teaches a communication system (Figs. 1 and 7) for use in connection with a stationary communication line (column 6 lines 8-12), the communication system comprising two portable input/output units (4 and 6 of Figs. 1 and 7), each of said input/output units comprising a first connector for wired connection of a communication line thereto, a second connector for connection of an input/output device thereto (column 7 lines 23-48, column 8 lines 7-17), a rechargeable battery, a third connector for connection of a charging voltage to the rechargeable battery therein (column 6 lines 17-19), and a wireless transmitter and receiver for communicating wirelessly a communication line signal in one direction from a first of said two input/output units to a second of said two input/output units and for communicating wirelessly a communication signal from the second of said two input/output units to the first of said two input/output units for wired input to the communication line through the first connector, such that the two input/output units are interchangeable (column 5 lines 46-50, column 6 lines 5-8).

But, Uchiyama does not expressly disclose the two units directly communicate with each other wirelessly.

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However, Uchiyama teaches wireless handset can use direct interface link for data transfer but not radio link (column 8 lines 7-17); the wireless handset and cordless handset are interconnected (column 5 lines 46-11); and multiple handsets can communicate with each other (column 6 lines 5-8).

Umstetter et al. teach two cordless handsets directly communicate with each other and wherein a first cordless handset acts as a repeater for a second cordless handset to communicate with a base station (Fig. 1B).

In light of Uchiyama's teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that Umstetter et al.'s first cordless handset can act as a repeater for the second cordless handset communicate with the base station via physical interface connection once the first cordless handset sits in a cradle of the base station.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate repeating function of cordless handset taught by Umstetter et al. into the communication system of Uchiyama, in order to extend wireless range of the system.

Regarding claim 8, Uchiyama and Umstetter et al. teach an input/output unit as explained in the response to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 2, Uchiyama and Umstetter et al. teach the limitation of claim 1.

Uchiyama teaches wherein the system comprise a base station for receiving at least one of said two input/output units (Fig. 1), said base station comprising a charging connector

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and a communication line interface both for connection to either of the two input/output units (column 7 lines 23-48).

Regarding claim 3, Uchiyama and Umstetter et al. teach the limitation of claim 1.

Uchiyama teaches the system comprises a base station for receiving at least two input/output units (Fig. 1).

Regarding claims 4-5, Uchiyama and Umstetter et al. teach the limitation of claim 3 and 2.

Uchiyama teaches the base station comprises circuitry (128 of Fig. 7) for controlling charging of a rechargeable battery in one or both input/output units (column 6 lines 13-39).

Regarding claims 6 and 9, Uchiyama and Umstetter et al. teach the limitations of claims 1 and 8.

Uchiyama teaches wherein a combined connection which provides data communication connection and at the same time provides a charging voltage connection for charging the rechargeable batter is provided in each of said two input/output units (column 7 lines 23-48).

Regarding claims 7 and 10, Uchiyama and Umstetter et al. teach the limitations of claims 1 and 8.

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Uchiyama teaches the input/output unit comprises a communication protocol allowing change of the receiver/transmitter status of two units during operation (inherent).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zhiyu Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-2837.

The examiner can normally be reached on Weekdays: 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on (571) 272-7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Zhiyu Lu
July 9, 2007


NAY MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER